



# The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

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## ADVISORY

**TO:** All MA Ambulance Services  
**FROM:** Jon Burstein, MD, State EMS Medical Director  
Louise Goyette, Director  
**DATE:** January 13, 2005  
**RE:** Emergency change in 2.6 Nerve Agent Exposure Protocols

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Please note that the Statewide Treatment Protocols version 5.1, effective January 1, 2004, needs to be updated in the 2.6 Nerve Agent Protocol, under the First Responder section. Due to a change in the Department's Drug Control Program regulations, First Responders are now authorized to administer these antidotes not only for self-care, but also for care of fellow emergency responders.

The protocol as it stood prior to this emergency change reads:

### **TREATMENT (FIRST RESPONDERS)**

#### **SELF-CARE PROCEDURES**

1. **Remove self from area if possible.**
2. **Assess degree of symptoms: Mild, Moderate or Severe (see Appendix)**
3. **Administer 1 to 3 Mark-1 Kits 1M (each kit with Atropine 2 mg IM and Pralidoxime 600 mg IM) as guided by degree of symptoms to self.**
4. **Seek additional medical support for further monitoring and transport of Self and anyone else receiving Mark-1 therapy.**
5. **Self-disrobing will significantly enhance the decontamination process, perform self-decontamination, and seek assistance in further decontamination measures.**

The protocol has now been changed to read:

## **TREATMENT (FIRST RESPONDERS)**

### **PROCEDURES FOR SELF-CARE AND CARE OF AUTHORIZED PUBLIC EMPLOYEES<sup>1</sup>**

1. **Ensure scene safety.**
2. **Remove self or fellow authorized public employee from area if possible.**
3. **Assess degree of symptoms: Mild, Moderate or Severe (see Appendix)**
4. **Administer 1 to 3 Mark-1 Kits 1M (each kit with Atropine 2 mg IM and Pralidoxime 600 mg IM) as guided by degree of symptoms.**
5. **Seek additional medical support for further monitoring and transport of anyone receiving Mark -1 therapy.**
6. **Disrobing will significantly enhance the decontamination process. Perform decontamination, and seek assistance in further decontamination measures.**

The corrections have been made on the official version of the Statewide Treatment Protocols that appear on the OEMS website and attached to this advisory.

Please ensure that you share these corrections with all appropriate parties, most particularly, with all EMT-Intermediates and EMT-Paramedics that you employ. Thank you.

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<sup>1</sup> Under 105 CMR 700.003 of the Department of Public Health's Drug Control Program regulations, an authorized public employee in this context is "a public employee or volunteer to a municipality, agency, department or authority of the Commonwealth ("agency") whose function includes emergency preparedness and response and is designated by a municipality's or agency's medical director" to administer nerve agents.